

We claim:

1. A process for extracting a natural organic component from organic material, comprising the steps of:

- (a) contacting the organic material in a vessel with a blend of tetrafluoroethane and at least one organic solvent to dissolve the natural organic component in the solvent blend; ✓  
*rel. time*
- (b) removing the remaining organic material from the solution of the natural organic component and the solvent blend; and ✓
- (c) removing the solvent blend to isolate a liquid, oily product containing the natural organic component. ✓

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2. The process of claim 1, wherein the organic solvent is selected from the group ~~consisting of~~ including acetone, butane, ethanol, ethylene chloride, hexane, isopropanol, methanol, methylene chloride, and propylene glycol.

3. The process of claim 1, wherein the solvent blend comprises from between about 60% to about 95% tetrafluoroethane.

4. The process of claim 3, wherein the solvent blend comprises tetrafluoroethane and at least two organic solvents.

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The process of claim 4, wherein the organic solvents are selected from the group ~~consisting of~~ including acetone, butane, hexane, and methanol.

6. The process of claim 5, wherein the solvent blend comprises between about 70% and about 85% tetrafluoroethane, between about 1% and about 25% acetone, and between about 1% and about 25% methanol.

7. The process of claim 3, wherein the solvent blend comprises between about 70% and about 95% tetrafluoroethane and the organic solvent is acetone.

8. The process of claim 3, wherein the solvent blend comprises between about 70% and about 90% tetrafluoroethane and the organic solvent is methanol.

9. The process of claim 3, wherein the solvent blend comprises between about 70% and about 90% tetrafluoroethane and the organic solvent is hexane.

- a* 10. The process of claim 1, wherein the natural organic component includes an antioxidant. ✓

- a* *sub* *11* 11. The process of claim 10, wherein the natural organic component includes organic molecules having polarity substantially similar *comparable* to antioxidants. ✓  
*sub. term*

12. The process of claim 1, wherein the step of removing the solvent blend includes allowing the tetrafluoroethane to be reclaimed.

- a* 13. A process for extracting molecules having polarity substantially similar *comparable* to antioxidants from botanical material, comprising the steps of: *sub. term*

- (a) contacting the botanical material in a vessel with a blend of tetrafluoroethane and at least one organic solvent to dissolve the molecules in the solvent blend;
- (b) removing the remaining botanical material from the solution of the molecules and the solvent blend; and
- (c) removing the solvent blend to isolate a liquid, oily product containing the molecules.

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14. A process for extracting a natural organic component from botanical material, comprising the steps of:
- (a) contacting the botanical material in a vessel with a blend of tetrafluoroethane and at least one organic solvent to dissolve the natural organic component in the solvent blend;
  - (b) removing the remaining botanical material from the solution of the natural organic component and the solvent blend; and
  - (c) removing the solvent blend to isolate a liquid, oily product containing the natural organic component which has antioxidant activity that is improved over a natural component extracted in the absence of the organic solvent.

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15. The process of claim 14, wherein the liquid, oily product is <sup>rel. term</sup> readily soluble in an edible oil.

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16. The process of claim 14, wherein the botanical material is at least one species selected from the family Labiatae.

17. The process of claim 14, wherein the botanical material is *Rosemarinus officinalis*.

18. A preservative for foods and animal feedstuffs, comprising a mixture of the liquid, oily product obtained from the process of claim 14 and an edible oil.

Compos. <sup>X</sup> <sup>dep</sup>  
from method <sup>X</sup>

19. An orally administered antioxidant for humans and animals, comprising a mixture of the liquid, oily product obtained from the process of claim 14 and an edible carrier.

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